



WEST CLANDON PARISH COUNCIL

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West Clandon Parish Council - Chairman's Report 2015 -16

One of the Parish Council's major concerns continues to be the excessive speed of vehicles as they pass through the village on the A247. Over the past 20 years, the Council has continually tried to find ways of reducing vehicle speeds and ensuring the safety of pedestrians.

These have included:-

- The installation of Speed Check warning signs
- An unsuccessful attempt to establish village Speed Patrol teams
- Re-designating the A247 as a 'B' road instead of an 'A' road
- Making the narrow stretch of road at 'Summers' single track
- Installing traffic lights at the entrance to Clandon Station
- Carrying out an expensive SCC Traffic Study in 2007 for £100,000

Some initiatives have worked better than others, for example:-

- The installation of a pedestrian crossing at Meadowlands
- Establishing a 40 mph speed limit on the A25 south of Clandon Crossroads
- The installation of two bollards outside 'The Bull' and the School to stop large vehicles mounting the pavement
- Persuading the Police to install speed monitors in 2013, when a vehicle was found to be speeding at 78 mph past the Village School.
A similar speed survey was carried out in March this year.

Following the visit by Guildford Borough Councillors on January 18th, the Parish Council has now applied to the Surrey County Council for the introduction of 20 mph speed limits outside the Church, at the School and on the narrow stretch of the A247 outside 'Summers'. We have also requested that the start of the 30 mph speed limit should be moved back to the junction with Green Lane. The go-ahead to introduce these measures will depend on the approval of the Police and the Local Committee and the necessary funding being available.

Also, the Surrey Highways have confirmed that the Highways Agency will be reviewing the layout of the A3 slip road junction with the A247 as part of their current study into options for upgrading the A3.

Following yet another plea from a resident about the difficult exit from Clandon Station, the Parish Council has successfully applied for a 30 mph slow-down 'VAS' sign to be erected on the northern side of the railway bridge. This has been made possible thanks to a grant of £3938 from Guildford Borough Council and should be in operation by June. The Surrey County Council Highways will also be refreshing the road markings in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

During the year, the Parish Council has continued to monitor planning matters in the village. Although we have no control over specific planning applications, we can and do comment on applications in the same way as the public.

A significant area of activity has been in relation to the new Guildford Borough Plan, the new draft of which was published on April 5th. The Borough's Executive and Full Council will consider this new draft Local Plan in May 2016 with public consultation exercise planned for June.

From a West Clandon perspective, the main features include:-

- No mention of the Cuckoo Farm Secondary School proposals, which appear to have been dropped
- No major development sites identified within the village, which remains in the Green Belt....**but**....
- A major new development is proposed at Gosden Hill (part of which lies within West Clandon Parish) and will be accessed from an upgraded A3
- A proposal for mixed employment/residential development at Burntcommon remains in the plan
- A New Station is proposed for Merrow to be named 'Guildford East'

The main concern of the Parish Council has always been to protect West Clandon from inappropriate development that would affect the village. During the last year, we raised concerns over a number of planning applications, either to pass on concerns raised by residents or because we believed the applications raised matters of concern.

One particular application we commented upon was at the Drift Golf Club in East Horsley, where it is proposed to import large quantities of waste soil to remodel a section of the golf course.

Although outside West Clandon, it would drastically affect our village because of the estimated 900 heavily laden lorry loads of soil that would have to pass through our village on their way to East Horsley.

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In September 2015, we made strong representations against this proposed travel plan and fortunately a decision now seems to have been made that even if the proposal proceeds, the lorry traffic will be accessing East Horsley from the A3 by a route via Cobham.

Last October, we made strong protests to Surrey County Council about its plans to construct a large new cafe in a very prominent position on the edge of the hillside at Newlands Corner, which would ruin the magnificent views of the Surrey Hills and South Downs beyond. If that wasn't bad enough, they are also planning to introduce parking charges, where none existed before.

Another maintenance job that wasn't attended to during the past year was the resurfacing of Clandon Crossroads. This was originally planned to take place last Summer but was then postponed until Easter this year. The reason given for the delay of this now urgent work was that the Surrey County Council had to make £10 million worth of budget savings last January. We can only hope that this vital maintenance job will be done soon before the surface of this important junction starts to fall apart altogether.

Other maintenance tasks carried out during the year included cutting back hedges overhanging narrow footpaths on the village street, nettles and long grass at Clandon Crossroads and tree cutting on the Recreation Ground.

The West Clandon Parochial Church Council, Clandon Infants School and the Village Hall have all benefitted from Section 137 payments from the Parish Council during the past year.

With the assistance of the SCC Countryside Access team, a new kissing gate is to be installed on Footpath 67 during 2016. SCC has also carried out clearance work on Footpaths 81 and 77 on Clandon Downs, as well as hedge cutting on Footpath 568.

Mrs Carol Roberts - a long term resident of the village - was co-opted on the Parish Council during the year, filling the last remaining place left vacant following the elections last May. Carol's first project has been to oversee the upgrading of the Playground, which has now been completed with the addition of two new attractions - a conical climbing frame and a high basket swing. These new additions were funded with Section 106 money contributed by the developers of 'Waterfields', the new housing extension to Meadowlands.

For a village with relatively few community facilities, we have managed to secure funding of £16,000 of Section 106 money from Guildford Borough Council towards an extension of the Village Hall Car Park.

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We are planning to use 'grassform' grids to underpin 17 additional car parking spaces to act as an overflow area for the increasingly frequent occasions when big events in the Village Hall or Royal British Legion require overflow parking capacity.

This should ensure little reduction in the overall grassed area and protect the visual amenity of our Recreation Ground. Yet another grant from the Guildford Borough Council will allow the Village Hall Management Committee to undertake the replacement of some windows of this well used facility.

Finally, I would like to thank my Vice-Chairman Jonathan Murphy for taking charge of all the planning applications that were considered by the Parish Council during the year and also Christopher Dean for his continued help in dealing with the Draft Local Plan.

My thanks also go to Rob MacDonald for his help and efficiency in looking after West Clandon's many footpaths; to Carol Roberts for her supervision of all matters concerning the Recreation Ground and its Playground; and to Stephen Meredith for his continued help with the administration of the West Clandon Parochial Charities. Nothing would happen on the Parish Council if it wasn't for our clerk John Stone, who has continued to organise all of us in a most efficient manner throughout the year.

I would also like to thank our Borough Councillors Jenny Wicks, Matthew Sarti and David Reeve and our County Councillor Keith Taylor for setting aside the time to attend and contribute to our meetings with their help and advice.

Terence Patrick
(Chairman)

April 13th 2016

